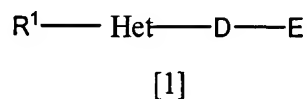


In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A heterocyclic compound of the formula [1], or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



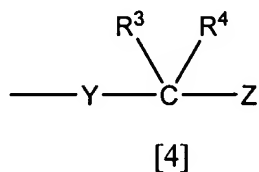
wherein:

R¹ is aryl; said aryl being optionally substituted by the same or different one to three groups selected from alkyl, haloalkyl, trihaloalkyl, alkoxy, halogen and nitro;

Het is an oxazole which is optionally substituted by alkyl or trihaloalkyl;

D is alkylene, alkenylene, or alkynylene; and

E is a group of the formula [4]:



wherein Y is oxygen or sulfur; R³ and R⁴ are the same or different and each being hydrogen or alkyl; Z is carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxymethyl, carbomoyl, N-hydroxycarbamoyl, N-alkylcarbamoyl, N,N-dialkylcarbamoyl, cyano, 1H-5-tetrazolyl, 1-alkyl-5-tetrazolyl, or 2-alkyl-5-tetrazolyl, with the proviso that compounds are excluded in which:

1) D is methylene and Y is sulfur; and

2) D is alkylene and Y is oxygen.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A heterocyclic compound ~~of claim 1~~, which is selected from the group consisting of compounds (1) to ~~(4)~~(5) below:

(1) 2-methyl-2-[6-(5-methyl-2-phenyloxazol-4-yl)-(E)-4-hexenyloxy]propionic acid,

(2) 2-methyl-2-[6-(5-methyl-2-phenyloxazol-4-yl)-4-hexynyloxy]propionic acid,

(3) 2-methyl-2-[6-(5-methyl-2-phenyloxazol-4-yl)hexyloxy]-~~propanol, and~~propanol,

(4) ~~2-methyl-2-[6-(5-methyl-2-(p-tolyl)oxazol-4-yl)hexyloxy]propionic acid, 2-~~

methyl-2-[6-[5-methyl-2-(p-tolyl)oxazol-4-yl]hexyloxy]propionic acid, and

(5) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of any of the above compounds (1) to

(4).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A therapeutic pharmaceutical composition~~ A method of treatment for hyperlipidemia, comprising administering to a subject a composition comprising as an active ingredient a heterocyclic compound as set forth in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A therapeutic pharmaceutical composition~~ A method of treatment for arteriosclerosis, comprising administering to a subject a composition comprising as

an active ingredient a heterocyclic compound as set forth in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A therapeutic pharmaceutical composition~~ A method of treatment for ischemic heart disease, comprising administering to a subject a composition comprising as an active ingredient a heterocyclic compound as set forth in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A therapeutic pharmaceutical composition~~ A method of treatment for cerebral infarction, comprising administering to a subject a composition comprising as an active ingredient a heterocyclic compound as set forth in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A therapeutic pharmaceutical composition~~ A method of treatment for reocclusion after PTCA, comprising administering to a subject a composition comprising as an active ingredient a heterocyclic compound as set forth in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A therapeutic pharmaceutical composition~~ A method of treatment for diabetes mellitus, comprising administering to a subject a composition comprising as an active ingredient a heterocyclic compound as set forth in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A therapeutic pharmaceutical composition~~ A method of treatment for obesity, comprising administering to a subject a composition comprising as an

active ingredient a heterocyclic compound as set forth in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) A therapeutic pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient a heterocyclic compound for hyperlipidemia of claim 3, which is selected from the group consisting of compounds (1) to ~~([[4]]~~5) below:

- (1) 2-methyl-2-[6-(5-methyl-2-phenyloxazol-4-yl)-(E)-4-hexenyloxy]propionic acid,
- (2) 2-methyl-2-[6-(5-methyl-2-phenyloxazol-4-yl)-4-hexynyloxy]propionic acid,
- (3) 2-methyl-2-[6-(5-methyl-2-phenyloxazol-4-yl)hexyloxy]~~propanol, and~~propanol,
- (4) ~~2-methyl-2-{6-[5-methyl-2-(p-tolyl)oxazol-4-yl]hexyloxy} propionic acid~~ 2-methyl-2-{6-[5-methyl-2-(p-tolyl)oxazol-4-yl]hexyloxy}propionic acid, and
- (5) a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the above compounds (1) to (4).